



**For immediate release**  
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**DCR SEEKING PROPOSALS TO REHABILITATE, OPERATE,  
AND MAINTAIN BASCOM LODGE**

*Historic Curatorship Program accepting proposals to rehabilitate the Mount Greylock lodge  
in exchange for a long-term lease*

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is issuing a Request for Proposals for the rehabilitation, management, and maintenance of Bascom Lodge in Mount Greylock State Reservation in the Berkshires. Through DCR's Historic Curatorship Program, outside parties rehabilitate and maintain a historic property in return for credit toward a long-term lease.

The RFP for Bascom Lodge, which stipulates the lodge continue its traditional function as an overnight accommodation offering lodging and food, is expected to be followed soon by RFPs for four more DCR properties: the Coachman's House Complex in Maudslay State Park in Newburyport; Harlow Farmhouse in Ellisville Harbor State Park in Plymouth; Smith Farmhouse in Borderland State Park in North Easton; and Lamson House in Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield.

"The Historic Curatorship Program demonstrates an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to preserving the history and culture of our park system," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Once rehabilitated, these properties are maintained and operated by the tenant, with public access to the grounds provided at various times during the year, depending on the property."

Established in 1994, the Historic Curatorship Program matches some of the Commonwealth's significant historic buildings with people interested in rehabilitating and maintaining the building in exchange for a long-term lease. Since the program's inception, more than \$5 million in private funds has been leveraged toward these restorations.

So far, nine properties have been rehabilitated under the program, from the mountains of Berkshire County to the urban streets of Dorchester, from the banks of the Merrimack River in Lowell to the forests of Foxboro. Current uses for the properties include single-family homes, artist lofts, a nonprofit group, and a for-profit events and overnight facility.

In 1898, the state Legislature established Mt. Greylock as the Commonwealth's first State Reservation. The Mt. Greylock Reservation Commission improved access to the summit and

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upgraded recreational facilities, and work began on Bascom Lodge in 1932. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) designed the lodge, and its low profile, integration into the summit's contours, and the use of native materials typified the CCC design theory that shaped the identity of the country's national and state park systems. Bascom Lodge has served day and overnight visitors to Mt. Greylock for 70 years, including through-hikers on the Appalachian Trail.

DCR's Historic Curatorship Program is one of only a handful in the country and is among the most successful. The program requires that the reuses of these properties be compatible with the surrounding community, while enhancing the visitor's experience of the public park. Curators are chosen based on a number of criteria, including the overall quality of their proposal, their experience in restoration and historic preservation, their financial resources, and the public benefits and environmentally sustainable building practices they will incorporate. They must provide regular public access to the property.

The Request for Proposals describes the submission requirements and provides detailed information on the property, including an assessment of its current condition and required improvements. Interested parties can submit a proposal for review by DCR. Successful proposals outline a viable reuse concept, public benefit, rehabilitation approach, and implementation schedule, and demonstrate relevant experience and sound financial qualifications for tenancy.

Responses to the RFP are due on September 19, 2008, by 5 p.m. Open houses at Bascom Lodge are tentatively scheduled August 16 and August 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Preregistration is required for the open houses: Call 617-626-1361 or send an email to [HCP.Requests@state.ma.us](mailto:HCP.Requests@state.ma.us).

For electronic copies of the Request for Proposals, as well as more details on the Historic Curatorship Program, visit DCR's website: [mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator/index.htm](http://mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator/index.htm). For hard copies of the documents or more information on the program, send an e-mail to [HCP.Requests@state.ma.us](mailto:HCP.Requests@state.ma.us), call 617-626-1361, or write to Historic Curatorship Program, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 7th floor, 251 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect,*

*promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*